

STAUFFER BROTHER, LLC.  
13851 STAUFFER ROAD, NE.  
HUBBARD, OREGON 97032-9715  
Office: 503-982-9393  
Fax: 503-982-5065

January 03, 2003

Gary D. Olson, Regional Manager  
AMS-FV-NW Marketing Field Office  
1220 SW. Third Ave., Suite 385  
Portland, Oregon 97204

Re: Hop Marketing Order  
Opposition

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are a Century Farm, surviving in Oregon since 1865. We have raised hops since the early 1930's. We participated in previous marketing orders and this is why we must mention our concerns regarding the proposed hop marketing order. **WE ARE OPPOSED TO SUCH AN ORDER!** There are many objections and concerns of which we will list the ones we feel are most important.

1 Issuing of Allotment Base:

- a. When the last order was dissolved we operated 420 acres of hops. We had to purchase allotment for this production. Currently we farm 320 acres.
- b. Since the previous marketing order was dissolved a free market opened and this allowed many new entities to enter the hop business without purchasing allotment. We see no way possible to issue allotment that would be fair to everyone.

2. Voting on Proposed Hop Marketing Order:

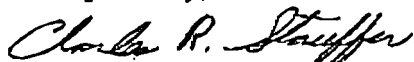
- a. As mentioned above, we have decreased production in order to stay with demand. New entities have added to an already over supplied market. These people want to protect their stock which is sitting on a self flooding the market. New entities since the last marketing order should not be allowed a vote.
- b. Voting by entities is not fair, as mentioned previously and voting by amount produced is not fair. People with the most production

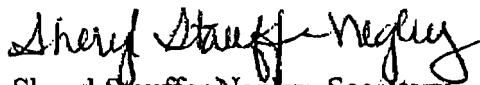
should not be allowed to railroad others into a marketing order,  
which is not needed.

3. A marketing order in the USA only helps other countries expand their ability to grow more hops. It puts the US at a disadvantage to participate in a world market. Without an International Marketing Order, a US Marketing Order would only hinder rather than be helpful.

We appreciate your consideration of these comments. We urge you to do everything necessary to reject the proposed Hop Marketing Order.

Respectfully,

  
Charles R. Stauffer, President  
Stauffer Brothers, LLC.

  
Sheryl Stauffer Negley, Secretary  
Stauffer Brother, LLC.

cc: Docket Clerk AMS

File

STAUFFER FARMS, INC.  
13851 STAUFFER ROAD, NE.  
HUBBARD, OREGON 97032-9715  
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December 03, 2003

Gary D. Olson, Regional Manager  
AMS-FV-NW, Marketing Field Office  
1220 SW Third Ave. Suite 385  
Portland, Oregon 97204

Re: Hop Marketing Order Opposition

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are writing to voice our opinion in opposition to the proposed hop marketing order. While there are many varied opinions in opposition, we would like to state some we think are of significance.

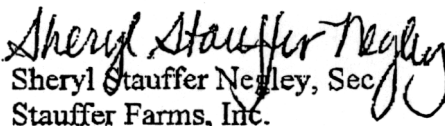
It is our view that the way the allotment base will be granted is unequally applied. Prior to the Representative Base Period (1997-2001) we grew 420 acres of hops. We presently have reduced our acreage to 320, to help reduce the oversupply and help the struggling market. Our base would be less than what we desire and are able to grow, while other producers that have expanded their acreage in the base period would have more. We feel we would be penalized for trying to help the hop market.

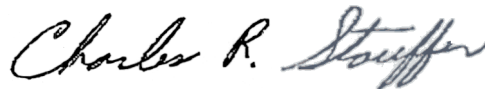
We believe that only a world-wide marketing order would work. If U. S. growers are restricted by volume controls, this would only signal to international competitors that they may expand their acreage.

Historically, U. S. hop marketing orders have not worked. We feel that the new proposal is not any different.

Thank you for reviewing our letter, and we urge you to deny the proposed hop marketing order.

Respectfully,

  
Sheryl Stauffer Negley, Sec  
Stauffer Farms, Inc.

  
Charles R. Stauffer, President  
Stauffer Farms, Inc.

Cc: Docket Clerk, AMS-FV Marketing Order Admin. Branch, Washington, DC